

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-5 and 12-20, and cancel claims 22-24, without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows:

---

5 1. (Currently Amended) A bunt aid for use with a bat, the bat having a handle and a barrel, the bunt aid comprising:

at least one resilient cup;

at least one strap attached to the resilient cup; and

the strap adapted to secure the cup to the bat,

10 ~~whereby the resilient cup provides sufficient give to simulate catching a ball with a baseball glove.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one strap further comprises:

at least one end detachably coupled to the at least one resilient cup; and

15 a length sufficient to wrap around the barrel.

3. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 2, wherein the at least one detachably coupled end couples to the at least one cup using a mechanism comprising at least one of a snap, a ~~Velcro~~ hook strip and a corresponding loop strip, an adhesive, a buckle, or suction cup.

20 4. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one resilient cup is positionable along the bat.

5. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one resilient cup comprises:

a seating surface adapted to be secured adjacent to the bat; and

25 sidewalls having a rim, the sidewalls attached to the seating surface and extending outward from the seating surface to terminate at the rim,

such that the rim defines a first opening.

6. (Original) The bunt aid of claim 5, wherein the sidewalls generally taper outward between the seating surface and the rim.

7. (Original) The bunt aid of claim 5, wherein the seating surface, sidewalls and rim have substantially a funnel shape.

8. (Original) The bunt aid of 5, wherein the opening defines a geometrical shape.

5 9. (Original) The bunt aid of claim 8, wherein the geometrical shape comprises one of a circle, an ellipse, a rectangle, a square, a triangle, an oblong, a semi-circle, a semi-ellipse, or a trapezoid.

10. (Original) The bunt aid of claim 5, wherein the seating surface comprises at least a second opening to expose the bat surface.

10 11. (Original) The bunt aid of claim 5, wherein the rim comprises:

a lip,

the lip having an outer portion, a transition portion, and an inner portion; and

the lip being generally parallel to the bat surface at the outer portion

15 and generally parallel to the sidewalls at the inner portion.

A4

12. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one resilient cup is constructed from at least one of rubber, foam, leather, synthetic leather, polymers, composites, metals, or woods.

13. (Currently Amended) A bunt aid for use with a bat, the bat having a handle and a barrel, the bunt aid comprising:

resilient means for simulating the catching of a ball with the bat; and

means for attaching the resilient simulating means to the bat.

14. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 13, wherein the resilient means for simulating is a means for guiding the bat to the ball.

25 15. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 14, wherein the resilient means for simulating is a resilient cup.

16. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 13, wherein the resilient means for simulating is a means for deadening the impact of the ball on the bat.

30 17. (Currently Amended) The bunt aid of claim 16, wherein the means for deadening is at least one of a foam sleeve, and a rubber sleeve, and a spring.

18. (Currently Amended) A bat adapted for use as a bunt training aid, the training aid comprising:

a handle portion;

a barrel portion;

5 an intermediate portion between the handle portion and the barrel portion; and  
a resilient bunt aid attached to the barrel portion,

whereby the resilient bunt aid provides sufficient give to simulate catching a ball with a baseball glove.

A4

10 19. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 18, wherein the resilient bunt aid is integral to the bat.

20. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 18, wherein the resilient bunt aid is detachable from the bat.

21. (Original) The bat of claim 18, wherein the bat is constructed from one of a metal, a wood, or a polymer.

15 22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)